



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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QUESTION OF RACE CONFLICT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Statement by Mr. Robert Ford in the Special Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, January 16, 1957.

My Delegation's views on the question of race conflict in the Union of South Africa have been stated fully at previous sessions of the General Assembly. On this occasion, I should like only to restate briefly the Canadian attitude to the question before us, in order particularly that new members of the organization, joining in the deliberations of this question for the first time, may not be left with any misunderstanding of our views.

I should first like to make very clear to members of the committee that we have no sympathy with policies of racial discrimination wherever they may be practised. In reference to the racial situation in South Africa, we have always endeavoured to keep in mind that the Government and people of South Africa are faced by a formidable and difficult racial problem to which there is no quick and easy solution. We in Canada, however, have grave doubts about policies and practices adopted to meet the problems of a multi-racial society which are based on notions of the racial superiority of one group within the society - notions which we believe to be false. It seems to us that discrimination is more likely to aggravate than to solve the underlying problem. We cannot ignore the fact, furthermore, that policies of racial discrimination are inconsistent with the basic principles of human rights which underlie the Charter of the United Nations.

Having said that, I must also explain that, while we have never objected to discussion of the question of race conflict in South Africa by the General Assembly, we have in the past expressed strong doubts regarding the competence and usefulness of action taken by the General Assembly in its efforts to solve this problem. As consideration of this issue continues from session to session without any progress towards the solution of the problem, my Delegation becomes more and more of the opinion that this kind of intervention by the United Nations into matters